

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0235

LIVE OAK - US EYES ONLY

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: STOBBE LUNCH WITH ABRASIMOV: QA ASPECTS

REF: BONN 01564 DTG 261929Z JAN 78

1. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, LUNCH HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED BETWEEN ABRASIMOV AND MAYOR STOBBE FOR FEBRUARY 27. SOVIET CONGEN BYKOV WAS ABRASIMOV'S INTERLOCUTOR. STOBBE WILL BE HOST AND WILL USE SENAT GUEST HOUSE. SENAT ANTICIPATED THAT ONE OR TWO CO-WORKERS FROM EACH SIDE WILL BE PRESENT.

2. QUESTION RAISED IN THIS INVITATION AS IN OTHER RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET CONGEN REPS AND SENAT OFFICIALS IS POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF AGREED MINUTE II OF QA WHICH STATES INTER ALIA: QUOTE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSULATE
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GENERAL WILL BE OF A CONSULAR CHARACTER AND WILL NOT INCLUDE POLITICAL FUNCTIONS OR ANY MATTERS RELATED TO QUADRIpartite RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. UNQUOTE. SOVIET CONGEN OFFICIALS HAVE VIOLATED THIS QA PROVISION IN RECENT WEEKS AND WITH AGREEMENT OF BRITISH AND FRENCH, U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER LOVING (U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOVIET CONGEN WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN

U.S. SECTOR) WILL ADMONISH SOVIET CONGEN BYUKOV ON THIS SUBJECT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 31. HE WILL COVER RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGEN OFFICIALS KOZOBRODOV AND DMITRIYEV TO SENAT OFFICIALS ABOUT FEDERAL PRESENCE ISSUES IN BERLIN.

3. UNFORTUNATELY FROM OUR STANDPOINT, GOVMAYOR STOBBE HIMSELF CONTRIBUTED TO THE MOST IMPORTANT RECENT VIOLATION WHEN HE AND BYKOV ENGAGED IN AN EXTENDED POLITICAL CONVERSATION WHILE DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEB. 27 LUNCH. IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER MEETINGS WITH BERLIN GOVERNING MAYORS AND ABRASIMOV, THE SENAT HAS FULLY AND HONESTLY REPORTED TO US THE DETAILS OF THIS STOBBE CONVERSATION. FRENCH AND BRITISH HERE SEEM SOMEWHAT CONFUSED ABOUT HOW TO REACT. WE HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT BYKOV WAS WITHIN HIS RIGHTS IN ARRANGING THE LUNCHEON (ALTERNATIVE OF HAVING SENAT TRY TO CALL SOMEONE IN SOVIET EMBASSY EAST BERLIN IS AT LEAST EQUALLY BAD IN OUR VIEW, AND CONSIDERABLY LESS SATISFACTORY FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT). WE ARGUED THAT CONSULS, WHEREEVER THEY MAY BE, OFTEN ARE CALLED UPON TO HELP ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH IMPORTANT PERSONS OF THEIR COUNTRY, I.E., BYKOV HELPED TO PUT A WEST BERLIN OFFICIAL IN CONTACT WITH AN IMPORTANT SOVIET AMBASSADOR. BUT, BYKOV SHOULD CLEARLY NOT BE AT A LUNCH OF SUCH A MANIFESTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL CHARACTER. WE ARE THEREFORE NOW WORKING OUT WITH THE OTHER MISSIONS AN APPROACH TO CHANCERY CHIEF HEIMANN SETTING FORTH THESE VIEWS, AND ALSO GIVING RENEWED EMPHASIS TO ALLIED OPINION THAT SENAT AUTHORITIES SHOULD AVOID DISCUSSING POLITICAL QUESTIONS WITH SOVIET CONGEN PERSONNEL. GEORGE

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